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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wisconsin National Guard soldiers in Kuwait reenlist during visit from adjutant general

Forty-one Wisconsin National Guard soldiers serving in Kuwait greeted their visiting commander this week by raising their right arms to re-enlist.

Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, Wisconsin's adjutant general, administered the oath of reenlistment to Wisconsin Army Guard troops of 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry in ceremonies at the units' bases.

"It is an honor to be among Wisconsin's best," Wilkening told the troops. "Your commitment to duty and this mission is shown by your willingness to re-enlist, even while deployed and separated from family and friends."

The units serve as security forces for the northern and southern regions of the country. Wilkening, accompanied by Command Sgt. Maj. John Hauschildt, senior enlisted adviser for the Wisconsin Army National Guard, also visited 32nd Brigade Headquarters and 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry while in Kuwait.

The two leaders were on a four-day command tour of the region, from Sunday, Feb. 19 through Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Wilkening and Hauschildt also visited Wisconsin Air National Guard airmen — from the 115th Fighter Wing, the 128th Air Refueling Wing and the 128th Air Control Squadron — in Iraq and Kuwait. They were able to visit with hundreds of the Wisconsin National Guard's 1,800 deployed troops.

"I'm happy to report that all of our soldiers and airmen are doing well," Wilkening said on his return to Wisconsin today. "They continue to perform their duties professionally and proudly represent the Wisconsin work ethic."

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Cutline (060220-A-9392G-027):

Soldiers of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry, Wisconsin Army National Guard, take the oath of reenlistment from Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, adjutant general of Wisconsin, at their Kuwait base [camp Virginia, northern Kuwait] Monday, February 20, 2006. Wilkening, who commands all Wisconsin National Guard members when not activated for federal service, was on a four-day trip to the region to visit Wisconsin troops. U.S. Army photo by Maj. Jackie Guthrie.



Cutline (060220-A-9392G-025):

Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry, Wisconsin Army National Guard, take the oath of re-enlistment from Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, adjutant general of Wisconsin, at their Kuwait base [camp Victory, northern Kuwait] Monday, February 20, 2006. Wilkening, who commands all Wisconsin National Guard members when not activated for federal service, was on a four-day trip to the region to visit Wisconsin troops. U.S. Army photo by Maj. Jackie Guthrie.



Cutline (060220-A-9392G-010):

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery, Wisconsin Army National Guard, take the oath of re-enlistment from Maj. Gen. Al Wilkening, adjutant general of Wisconsin, at their Kuwait base Monday, February 20, 2006. Wilkening, who commands all Wisconsin National Guard members when not activated for federal service, was on a four-day trip to the region to visit Wisconsin troops. U.S. Army photo by Maj. Jackie Guthrie.

High resolution photos are available. Please email pao@wi.ngb.army.mil and request specific photo.

Unit information:

2nd Battalion, 128th Infantry — headquartered in Madison, with units in Fort Atkinson, Elkhorn, Oconomowoc, Hartford, Baraboo, Reedsburg and Watertown. In addition, the battalion was augmented by soldiers from the Kenosha-based 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery and from Portage-based 132nd Support Battalion who were folded into the unit to form the battalion's Company D. See http://dma.wi.gov/MediaPublicAffairs/news_detail.asp?onid=233&linkid=49&locid=13

1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery — headquartered in Wisconsin Rapids with units in Mosinee, Marshfield, Clintonville and Stevens Point. In addition, the battalion is augmented by soldiers from the Kenosha-based 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery, and from Portage-based 132nd Support Battalion who were folded into the unit to form the battalion's Company C. See http://dma.wi.gov/MediaPublicAffairs/news-detail.asp?onid=232&linkid=49&locid=13